25 Sep 71

Your letter of 9/13/71.

NYTimes Denver piece on Kaplan: the clipping we sent was an extra. Don't need it back.

Heat: In spite of earlier remarks about people who consider 85° in the shade a heat wave, I know it's hot when we're trying to sleep and it's 103° in the bedroom, especially after two days when it was about 100°. Part of our trouble was the great variation in temperature. Quite often when we first went to bed in the morning it would be getting warm, then it would get hot and we'd turn on two fans, and eventually end up in the early evening under a light blanket. As for your suggestion about making shorts out of pants, no need: we both have shorts but when it's warm what we do is close the front door and go stitchless and shoeless, keeping cotton kimonos handy in case the doorbell rings. Perhaps it really was a heat wave. On the 14th it was 101° in San Francisco, and going all the way back to 1904 there were only three times when it was as hot on that date. By the 16th it was foggy, and at least in our bedroom it was 20° cooler than the day before.

Another thing which made it difficult to sleep was that within a day or so of our going on the graveyard shift a new house was started across the narrow valley from us. Doesn't sound very formidable but something about the terrain or the accoustics made it possible for me to hear the carpenters' conversation; across the valley is closer to the ear than to the eye. So we had a machine that digs holes for the foundation, cement mixer, bang bang, shout shout, wham wham.

Blanket: We're delighted Lil likes the Chinese character and that it won't be too complicated to do. We trust her judgment if she thinks the colors she used for the first blanket would work out well for this too, but in case she'd like to try another combination we've been trying to work something out centering on red for the character. The ink for these name seals, when newly stamped, is like the red of ink pads, but fades to a soft rusty red. So, starting with red or rusty red for the seal and perhaps a cream for the background - well, that's as far as we got. Couldn't think what would fit in well for the name or nini (!) initials. Mossy green? Not baby colors, but need they be? Just an idea we were playing around with - Lil will know better than we how something like this might (or might not at all) work out. We're sure the parents will be delighted with whatever it turns out to be. Perhaps Lil would like to know that the mother's name is Lilly.

As for the sweater for Jimmy II - you're full of ideas, aren't you? Nice ones, too. But why don't we let Lil catch her breath? Suppose we first surprise and overwhelm Gilbert and Lilly with the blanket? That way we could find out what size a sweater should be, instead of guessing and maybe missing. Assuming, of course, Lil is not only willing, but interested. And assuming you've kept her informed of all these orders you're taking, right and left.

Everything else for you, this time, is in the envelope and ready for mailing tomorrow, and I can't think of anything I may have forgotten to say. (Probably will as soon as the envelope is sealed.) Besides, it's 2 a.m. and we'll be in bed by 3, for the first time in almost two months our normal bedtime!!! We're going to SLEEP another ten hours!!!

Jerry

P.S. - We seem to sleep the way you do. Normally, turn out the light, in three minutes, certainly within five, and that's it. The very few times when we've known we wouldn't sleep, half a Nembutal or even half a Miltown (we had to have the prescriptions cut down) will do it, but not during the past two months - no effect whatever.